

In The Claims

1 1. (withdrawn and cancelled without prejudice)

1 2. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

2 a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability at body temperatures to at least
3 temporarily retain a specific shape selectively imparted to it by a user by bending of the
4 sheath along its length; and

5 a lumen defined in said moldable sheath.

1 3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a shaping tool for
2 disposition in said lumen of said implanted sheath to impart said specific shape to said
3 sheath.

1 4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3 where said shaping tool is separate
2 from said sheath.

1 5. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said shaping tool is
2 incorporated within said sheath.

1 6. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a sealing valve
2 coupled to said sheath to seal said lumen.

1 7. (withdrawn and cancelled without prejudice)

1 8. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said sheath has at least one
2 portion with a stiffness different than remaining portions of said sheath.

B 1 9. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said sheath has at least one
2 portion with a moldability different than remaining portions of said sheath.

1 10. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 where said sheath is deployed in a
2 body cavity and has at least one portion with a moldability which can be altered at the
3 time of implantation in said body cavity.

1 11 (original) The apparatus of claim 10 where said at least one portion has
2 its moldability altered before said sheath is implanted into said body cavity.

1 12. (original) The apparatus of claim 10 where said at least one portion has
2 its moldability altered after said sheath is implanted into said body cavity.

13. – 28. (withdrawn and cancelled without prejudice)

29. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
selectively imparted to it by a user by bending of the sheath along its length; and

a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
shape is held without continued inserted presence ~~assistance~~ of said shaping tool in the
sheath.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said sheath is characterized
by a sufficient moldability so that removal of said shaping tool does not result in any
substantial displacement of said sheath from said specific shape.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said sheath has a lumen and
where said shaping tool applied to said sheath comprises an elongate shaping tool
which is telescopically disposed within said lumen in said sheath.


32. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
imparted to it; and

4 a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
5 impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
6 shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool. ~~The apparatus of claim~~

7 29

8 where said shaping tool applied to said sheath comprises a shaping tool applied
9 exteriorly to said sheath and imposing a shaping force thereon.

1 33. – 36. (withdrawn)

 1 37. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said moldable sheath has at
2 least a portion of changed moldability relative to remaining portions of said sheath.

1 38. (original) The apparatus of claim 37 where said portion which changes its
2 moldability while in said body cavity comprises at least a portion of said sheath having a
3 moldability dependant on temperature in which said moldability of said sheath is
4 changed while in said body cavity and exposed to a body cavity temperature elevated
5 above ambient temperature.

1 39. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
3 imparted to it; and

4 a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
5 impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
6 shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool,

7 where said moldable sheath has at least a portion of changed moldability relative
8 to remaining portions of said sheath,

9 where said portion which changes its moldability while in said body cavity
10 comprises at least a portion of said sheath having a moldability dependant on
11 temperature in which said moldability of said sheath is changed while in said body
12 cavity and exposed to a body cavity temperature elevated above ambient temperature,

13 and The apparatus of claim 38

14 where said portion which changes its memory shape while in said body cavity
15 comprises at least a portion having a moldability dependant on moisture in which said
16 moldability of said sheath is changed while in said body cavity and exposed to moisture.

1 40. (original) The apparatus of claim 37 where said portion of changed
2 moldability has its moldability changed by treating at least a portion of said sheath
3 exterior to said body cavity prior to implanting.

1 41. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
3 imparted to it; and

4 a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
5 impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
6 shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool,

7 where said moldable sheath has at least a portion of changed moldability
8 relative to remaining portions of said sheath,

9 where said portion of changed moldability has its moldability changed by treating
10 at least a portion of said sheath exterior to said body cavity prior to implanting, and The
11 apparatus of claim 40

12 where said portion of changed moldability has its moldability changed by
13 exposing at least a portion of said sheath to radiation.

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1 42. – 52. (withdrawn)

1 53. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
3 imparted to it; and
4 a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
5 impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
6 shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool, The apparatus of claim
7 29 where said moldable sheath has a tip portion and where said tip portion is
8 substantially soft and compliant without appreciable moldability.

1 54. (withdrawn)

1 55. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said moldable sheath is
2 preshaped according to its intended application within said body cavity.

1 56. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said sheath has a proximal
2 end and further comprising a sealing valve disposed on said proximal end.

1 57. (withdrawn)

B 1 58. (original) The apparatus of claim 56 where said sealing valve is integral
2 with said sheath.

1 59. (original) The apparatus of claim 56 where said sealing valve is separate
2 from said sheath.

1 60. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising at least one wire
2 disposed in said sheath and usable for deflecting and positioning said sheath.

1 61. – 69. (withdrawn)

70. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said shaping tool is steerable.

71. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 where said shaping tool comprises a guidewire.

72. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
imparted to it; and
a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool. ~~The apparatus of claim~~
~~29~~ where said shaping tool has a tip portion which is substantially soft and compliant
without substantial moldability rendering it nontraumatic.

73. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
imparted to it; and
a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool. ~~The apparatus of claim~~
~~29~~ where said shaping tool further comprises at least one lumen defined therethrough
and a vent communicated with said lumen.

1 74. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
3 imparted to it; and
4 a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
5 impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
6 shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool. ~~The apparatus of claim~~
7 29-where said shaping tool further comprises a lumen defined therethrough and at least
8 one inflatable balloon communicated with said lumen.

B 1 75. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a moldable sheath capable of at least temporarily retaining a specific shape
3 imparted to it; and
4 a shaping tool arranged and configured to be applied to said implanted sheath to
5 impart said specific shape to said sheath while within said body cavity, which specific
6 shape is held without continued assistance of said shaping tool. ~~The apparatus of claim~~
7 29-where said shaping tool further comprises a conductor disposed therethrough and an
8 electrode coupled to said conductor for sensing or delivery of energy from said
9 electrode.

1 76. - 82 (withdrawn)

1 83. - 89. (withdrawn and cancelled without prejudice)

1 90. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

2 a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability at body temperatures to at least
3 temporarily retain a specific shape imparted to it; and

4 a lumen defined in said moldable sheath, where said sheath has at least one
5 portion with a stiffness different than remaining portions of said sheath wherein the
6 sheath is ~~The apparatus of claim 8~~ comprised of a relatively stiffer proximal portion and
7 relatively stiffer distal portion extending to a distal tip with a relatively less stiff
8 intermediate portion therebetween.

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1 91. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

2 a moldable sheath with sufficient moldability at body temperatures to at least
3 temporarily retain a specific shape imparted to it; and

4 a lumen defined in said moldable sheath, where said sheath has at least
5 one portion with a moldability different than remaining portions of said sheath wherein
6 the sheath is ~~The apparatus of claim 9~~ comprised of a relatively less moldable proximal
7 portion and relatively less moldable distal portion extending to a distal tip with a
8 relatively more moldable intermediate portion therebetween..

1 92. (withdrawn)